



MINI-SERIES

ENTER THE *WORLD OF KRYPTON'S*
TWILIGHT DIMENSION ...

ALL NEW!
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MORE PAGES!
NO. 1
JAN



PHANTOM ZONE

QUEX-UL HAS
COMMITTED A CRIME
AND KRYPTONIAN LAW
DEMANDS HE BE
SENT TO...



...THE
PHANTOM
ZONE!

A
HUMANE
METHOD
OF
CRIMINAL
CONFINEMENT...
OR A
DIMENSION
WITHOUT
HOPE?

NO...
NO!



"The HAUNTING of CHARLIE KWESKILL!"

PERRY WHITE IS A NEWSPAPER OF THE OLD SCHOOL FROM HIS REPORTERS. HE EXPECTS FOUR BY'S, NO DRILLS, AND FAST. FROM EVERYONE ELSE ON THE DAILY PLANET STAFF - FAST WILL DO.

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!! KWESKILL!!! THE ENGRAVERS ARE SCREAMING FOR THAT PAGE ONE REPEAT, AND YOU'RE USING IT FOR A PILLOW!!

CHARLIE KWESKILL, THE PLANET PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT'S "ACE OF FASTS", HAS COMMITTED THE UNFORGIVABLE - "SNOOZING ON THE NEWS".

NOW HE AWAKES IN MORAL TERROR - NOT ONLY OF HIS EDITOR'S WRATH BUT OF A NIGHT - MORE HE IS CERTAIN WILL RETURN.

DAILY PLANET
NIGHT OWL EDITION
SUPERMAN SNUFFS
MIDTOWN BLAZE

STEVE GERBER * GENE COLAN * TOM DE FALCA * ART LARSEN * CARL GUSTAF * DICK DIORANDO
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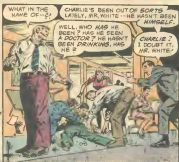
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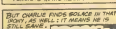


A SHORT TIME LATER...

GET SOME REST,
CHARLIE--AND
CALL IN SICK
TOMORROW, I'LL
COVER FOR YOU.



FREDGILL MANAGES A NOD. A WAY
SMILE. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS
FRIEND'S CONCERN--BUT THE DREAD
PERSISTS IN HIS MIND.



BUT CHARLIE FINDS SOLACE IN THAT
THOUGHT, AS WELL: IT MEANS HE IS
STILL SAFE.

A HEADBAND?
BUT CRIMINALS AREN'T ENTITLED
TO WEAR... HEADBANDS...?



MORE THAN THAT--IT BURROWS, NOW THAT HE HAS
RETURNED HOME, TO THE VERY HEART OF THE FEAR.
PERRY WHITE AND JOE GARRITY MEANT WELL, BUT
THEY HAVE DELIVERED HIM BACK INTO THE HANDS OF
THE DEMONS.



SAME ENOUGH NOT TO HAVE TOLD HIS CO-WORKERS
THAT HE IS BEING HAUNTED... BY SPECTERS FROM
A PLANET HALF-A-GALAXY AWAY, A GIANT WORLD
THAT SPUN IN THE LIGHT OF A MASSIVE RED STAR...



...A WORLD WHERE
THE SOIL SPANNED
JUNGLES: THE
COLOR OF BLOOD...
WHERE VOLCANOES
SPAWNED MOLTEN
GOLD...?



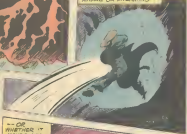
A WORLD
OF JEWEL MOUNTAINS AND
CASCADING FIRE AND CANYON-SPANNING
RAINBOWS THAT SHONE EVEN IN DARKEST
NIGHT. IT IS A WORLD THAT LONG AGO PERISHED.

IT IS ALSO THE WORLD OF
CHARLIE KNESSACK'S BIRTH.



BUT CHARLIE
DOESN'T KNOW THAT. CHARLIE
DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING OF HIS
PAST PRIOR TO THE DAY HE WAS
HIRED BY THE DAILY PLANET.

FOR THAT MATTER CHARLIE DOES
NOT KNOW HOW WHETHER HE'S
AWAKE OR DREAMING...



-- OR
WHETHER IT
MAKES ANY
DIFFERENCE.

HE CAN BE CERTAIN,
THOUGH, OF ONE
THING: HE'S
STUMBLED INTO
THE HORROR ONE
MORE TIME.

AND NOTHING
HE CAN DO
OR SAY CAN
STOP IT.



EVERY NIGHT FOR WEEKS, IT'S BEEN THE SAME--THE PLUNGE THROUGH SPACE INTO THE GAST PLANET'S CLOUDS--

--WHERE HIS BODY SEEMS TO EVAPORATE--NOT DESTROYED, MERELY DISCARDED--

A RING OF PURE CONSCIOUSNESS--CHARLIE DESCENDS TO THE PLANET'S HUMAN LEVEL--AND OBSERVES--

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL--FOR THREE YEARS WE HAVE SENT OUR CRIMINALS INTO SPACE--

ENCASED IN THEIR COFFIN-LIKE ROCKETS THEY ORBIT THE GLOBE IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION--



I AM ABOUT TO PROPOSE A MORE HUMAN, LESS COSTLY, YET EQUALLY EFFECTIVE METHOD OF CRIMINAL CONFINEMENT--IN THE PHANTOM ZONE--

WHATEVER THAT IS, PROCEED, JON--EL



WITH MY WIFE'S ASSISTANCE -- I WOULD BE PLEASED, GENTLEMEN, LARA--?

READY.



BY GOD! SHE'S VANISHING-- INTO NOTHINGNESS!!





MANIPULATED BY THOUGHT CONTROL, THEY ARE MORE VERSATILE THAN ROBOTS YET...

"OH, GRA--NO WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM..."

RAD CURSE YOU, JOR-EL! YOUR PHANTOM RAY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS."

IT DESTABILIZED MY ANDROID MOLECULAR COMPOSITION! BUT YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS HUMILIATION--



AT THE MENTION OF THE PLANET'S NAME, CHARLIE'S CONSCIOUSNESS QUIVERS -- LONG DORMANT EMOTIONS -- SHAME AND OUTRAGE, PAIN AND LONGING -- SURGE WITHIN HIM.

IN GRA-NO'S LABORATORY NEARBY, CHARLIE WATCHES AS THE SCIENTIST DONNS A BIZARRE HELMET.

LET JOR-EL WIN THE SEAT ON THE SCIENCE COUNCIL; THEY'LL ALL REGRET SPURNING MY WORK--



"--WHEN MY THOUGHT-CONTROL DEVICE TAKES COMMAND OF THEIR PRECIOUS ROBOT POLICE!"

CHARLIE WATCHES THE SPECTACLE OF DESTRUCTION IN AWE--ASTONISH AT THE WASTE OF LIFE AND PROPERTY--AND ASTONISHED AT HIS FEELING OF PERSONAL LOSS.



BEFORE THE NEXT DAWN,
GRI-MO IS APPREHENDED
BY THE SCIENCE POLICE,
AND THE "ROBOT REBELLION"
IS QUELLED.

TRIAL AND SENTENCING
FOLLOW QUICKLY...



...AND GRI-MO AND HIS ASSISTANTS
ARE ROCKETED INTO SPACE.

THEY'LL BE THE LAST
TO SUFFER THAT PUNISH-
MENT, JON-EL.

THE COUNCIL
HAS APPROVED
THE PHANTOM
ZONE AS
KEVIN'S OFFICIAL
METHOD OF
CRIMINAL
CONFINEMENT.



AND CHARLIE DREAMS ON, RECKONING
PASSING IN INSTANTS--THE GIANT
PLANET TURNING ON ITS SHINY
AXIS, SWIRLING IN ITS INCREDIBLE
DANCE.

...ON A COLLISION
COURSE WITH
DESTINY.



IT IS THE 6:20P ON OF THE
NIGHT OF BOX IN THE YEAR
2000. PHANTOM SCIENTIST
JAN-UT LAUNCHES A MISSILE
WITH AN EXPLOSIVE PAY-
LOAD INTO SPACE.

HIS INTENT IS TO INTERCEPT
A MISSILE AND BLAST IT
INTO WRECK. AS A TEST OF HIS
NEW GUIDANCE SYSTEM AND
NUCLEAR DEVICE.

THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM FAILS.
THE MISSILE HURTLES ON PAST
ITS TARGET...

...TOWARD WESTBORO, ONE OF THE HARBORS OF KRYPTON, AND ITS CONTINGENT OF INTREPID COLONISTS...



...NONE OF WHOM WILL SURVIVE THE NUCLEAR BLAST!



IN THE FIRST SCORCHING FLUSH OF HEAT, 500 MEN AND WOMEN ARE REDUCED TO CINDER-- A MICROSECOND BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF WESTBORO ITSELF!



ON THE SURFACE OF KRYPTON, COMPUTERS CALCULATE THE TWO-DIMENSIONAL ORBIT OF THE KILLER MISSILE, DETERMINING ITS LAUNCH SITE...

...AND THE UNREPENTANT JAIL-BIRD IS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY...

FOR CONDUCTING UNAUTHORIZED EXPERIMENTS IN ROCKETRY AND WITH UNTESTED EXPLOSIVES-- RESULTING IN THE SLAUGHTER OF KRYPTONIAN CITIZENS...

YOU ARE HEREBY SENTENCED TO STERILITY IN THE PHANTOM ZONE!



AGAIN, THE DREAM LEAPS AHEAD IN TIME-- AND ACROSS A CONTINENT TO THE GREAT KRYPTONIAN LAKE-- WHERE PROFESSOR HARKO, BIOCHEMIST, ATTEMPTS TO ALTER THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN SPECIES WITH A FORMULA OF HIS OWN CREATION.



THE SCIENCE COUNCIL DETERMINES THE INTERS WILL REMAIN POLLUTED FOR 50 SUN-CYCLES-- AND SO HARKO IS SENTENCED TO THE PHANTOM ZONE FOR A PERIOD OF LIKE DURATION.



AS HENCK HAUNTER INTO THE NETHER-DIMENSION, THE DREAMER MOVES ON, TRANSPORTED TO THE ANTARCTIC CITY!



THE LAW FORGIVES USING SUSPENDED ANIMATION IN MEDICAL RESEARCH!

AND THE SENTENCE FOLLOWS SWIFTLY! SO RUN-CYCLES IN THE PHANTOM ZONE.



FROM THE POLAR CAR, CHARLIE'S DREAM CHANGES AIM TO THE GRASSLANDS OF ALASKA --AND THE FARM OF EAGRA NY-OL--

---WHERE SOME 23 MEN ARE KNOWN TO HAVE VISITED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS---

... AFTER WHICH THEY WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN "



THAT MAN AND WOMAN IN YOUR LABORATORY CANNOT BE AWAKENED DR. KADU! YOU'VE CONFINED THEM TO PERPETUAL SLEEP!

AND THEN YOU INFORMED THEM THEY WERE BREAKING THE LAW--AND THAT THEY MIGHT NEVER BE REVIVED?

B-BUT THEY VOLUNTEERED FOR THE EXPERIMENT.



THEY VOLUNTEERED!

THE JURY DELIVERED ITS URGENT-SWIFT!

HET... IN THE NAME OF... UNIGH!

I DON'T CARE TO BE SHOUTED AT LAW-RANT AND I DON'T CARE TO HET, EITHER.



RECOUNTING AGORA'S MYSTERY OF HOWU-KAMU, DEADDEST OF THE KRYPTONIAN MARTIAL ARTS--THE REMAINING LAW OFFICERS TAKE NO CHANCES.

A STOP-BLAST SENDS AGORA SPRAWLING--



A NEURO-DISRUPTOR APPLIED TO THE BASE OF HER SKULL KEEPS HER THAT WAY, AS TWO OF THE POLICE BREACH THE DOOR.

...AND THEN WHEN THEY HADN'T.



INSIDE, THEY FIND FIGHT'S VICTIMS...PRESERVED BY A STRANGE GLOWING GAS IN AMPHIBIOUS CASES--AND THE HYDROUS TRUTH CAN NO LONGER BE DENIED.

AGORA CREATED A KIND OF CONCENTRATION CAMP, FILLED BY THE MALES SHE SO DESPISED. AND WHEN SHE TIRED OF TORTURING A PRISONER... SHE KILLED HIM.



THE PENALTY: A SENTENCE SACRIFICED ONLY BY JAGUUR'S, 300 SUN-CYCLES IN THE PHANTOM ZONE.



FAZZI'S SCREAMS OF RAGE
RECEDE INTO BALANCE--ONLY
TO BE REPLACED BY THE
CALCULATIONS OF A WAR IN
PROGRESS!

FORT ROSS, KRYPTON'S
MAIN DEFENSE CENTER,
IS UNDER ATTACK--



--BY THE UNLIVING
Hordes of General
ZOD! EACH of the warriors
is an imperfect duplicate
of ZOD himself--formed out
of inorganic matter--

--AND ARMED WITH ONLY THE MOST
ELEMENTARY INTELLIGENCE,
THEY LEAP FROM THE SKY INTO
THE BLASTING CRATER, TO
THEIR "DUTY", WITHOUT
HESITATION, WITHOUT QUESTION.



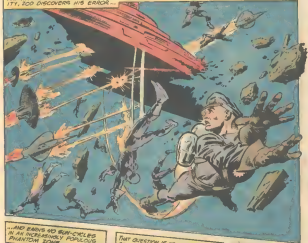
THEY ARE, IN SHORT, THE
IDEAL TROOPS FOR A MADMAN--
WHICH, IN TURN, IS THE IDEAL
DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL ZOD.



HE HAD PLANNED TO
DIE IN THE ELEVENTH
MOMENT OF HIS OWN
CREATION AS HIS PLANET,
KRYPTON,
...TO DISCIPLINE ITS
POPULATION FOR THEIR
PRECEDENT MURDER,
CONQUEST OF THE STARS!



BUT LIKE MANY BEFORE HIM--AND SINCE--THE GENERAL HAD TOOK PLEASURE FOR COMPLACENCY, AND MERCY FOR LACK OF RESOLVE. NOW, AS KRYPTON DEFENDS ITS TRADITION OF TRANQUILITY, BOB DISCOVERS HIS ERROR...



...AND FACING NO SUPPLIES IN AN INCREASINGLY POPULOUS PHANTOM ZONE.

"WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE?" CHARLIE WONDERS--"BEARING NOW CAN A CIVILIZATION SO OUTWARDLY ADVANCED PRODUCE SUCH A COLLECTION OF FREAKS?"



THAT QUESTION IS NO LONGER ASKED OF KRYPTON. THE DARK SIDE OF THE HUMAN HEART IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED--AND ITS TRANSGRESSIONS FURNISHED. THAT UNCOMPREHENDING EXTENSION FROM THE SPIRES OF KRYPTONOPOLIS TO THE ALLEYS OF EARTH, THE PLANET'S CLOSEST CITY.



YET EARTH IS ALSO DIFFERENT FROM MOST OF KRYPTON--A CITY OF HITS AND BOLTS IN A WORLD OF MICRO-CIRCUITRY.

IN ITS DARK AND TOO-QUIET STREETS--CRIME STILL FLOURISHES ON AN INTIMATE LEVEL. THIEF AND VICTIM STILL MEET FACE-TO-FACE.



AT-REL AND NADRA CAME TO BRAD TO SEEK THEIR FORTUNES, FINDING AT THAT, THEY NOW SEEK OTHERS' FORTUNES.

YOU CANNOT RUN.
YOU ARE CHOKING.

BORN ON BOWOS, THE ISLAND OF THIEVES,
THEY WERE BANISHED FROM THAT PLACE ...

AT-REL IS A PYROTEC. HE CAN START FIRES
WITH HIS THOUGHTS. ANYWHERE, EVEN IN
THE SNOW.

BURN...

ON COMMAND, THE VICTIM'S GARMENT
BEGINS TO SHOULDER.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE PAIR, THEIR POWERS DO
NOT EXTEND TO READING MINDS, AND THEIR
INTELLECTS LEAVE SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.

HAD THEY KNOWN THEY WERE STEALING A STUN-
GRENADE FROM A POLICE DECOY.

WHEN THEIR UNUSUAL ABILITIES
WERE DISCOVERED.

ARRRRRRH

NADRA POSSESSES A FORM OF
PYROKINESIS WITH WHICH SHE
CAN INVADE THE NERVOUS SYSTEM
OF ANOTHER BEING.

THIS TIME, AT-REL HAS BEEN KIND, HAD THE
MAN OFFERED ANY RESISTANCE ... THE FIRE
COULD HAVE BEEN STARTED INSIDE HIS SKULL.

...THEY MIGHT HAVE SPARED THEM—
SHE'S A SENTENCE OF 15 SUN-
CYCLED IN THE PHANTOM ZONE.

THE BULLET HADN'T SHIPPED CHARLIE OVER THE ARCTIC CONTINENT. BACK TO KRYPTONCOPOLIS TO WITNESS THE COURT OF KRY-EL.

ALMOST AS BRILLIANT AS HIS COUSIN JOE-EL... BUT HATED TOWARD EYL... HE HAD CREATED A CIRCLE OF FORBIDDEN WEAPONS.

FORBIDDEN FOR VERY GOOD REASONS. KRYPTON HAD ALSO LEARNED THE LESSON THAT EVERY AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGICAL OPTION NEED NOT BE EXPLORED.

THE SCIENCE POLICE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY.

WITH THEM. IN THE SADDEST MOMENT OF HIS LIFE, IS JOE-EL... WHO KNEW THE SON-BLAST THAT KILLS HIS GREAT NEPHEW...

...AND WHO, AFTER OUR PROCESS, CARRIES OUT JOE-EL'S SENTENCE OF 35 SUN-CYCLES IN THE PHANTOM ZONE.

IN THE TIME BETWEEN JOE-EL'S SENTENCE AND KRY-EL'S, A LEGION OF MEANIES IS CONSIDERED TO THE TONE...

ENOUGH ES-OM, AR-UM, CHA-UM, VOR-UM, AN-VAR, ROT-EM, SHYLA FOR-OM, GAZ-OR RES-KROM...

...TOP-AN, GIN-EL, TRO-GOS, BAL-GRA, HOP-EC, VAY-HOR, KUR-OL, AND MORE...

-BACH THE PERPETRATOR OF A CRIME HEINOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT THE ULTIMATE SEPARATION FROM SOCIETY.

BUT ONLY ONE MAN FOLLOWS QUIR-UL INTO THE TWILIGHT DIMENSION BEFORE THE PUNISHMENT IS RAINED... PERHAPS THE MOST HATED MAN ON EARTH THE SLAYER OF THE BONDORS...



PROFIT--OF COURSE, THE RADIANT HORNS OF THE BONDORS COULD CURE ALL SICKNESS, AND MEN--ALL IN--THE SO-CALLED "HALL OF HEALING"--AND ITS PROPRIETOR RAISED OUT HANDSOMELY FOR A TIME.



PATIENTS FLOCK TO BATHE IN THE GLOW OF THE CELLULAR REGENERATION STIMULATORS, THE TECHNICAL MARVEL TO REPLACE THE BONDORS.



BUT EVERY PROFITABLE VENTURE MUST COME TO AN END...

...AS THIS ONE DOES WHEN THE SCIENCE POLICE DISCOVER A BONDOR HORN INSIDE EACH OF THE "STIMULATORS".



JUDGMENT COMES SWIFTLY FOR THE KILLER OF INNOCENT BONDORS, THE FRIEND OF HUMAN MISERY...



...THE MAN CALLED QUIR-UL, QUIR-UL, KNEESILL--CAN IT BE? CHARLIE'S SOUL FREED? THE FACE IS UNMISTAKABLY HIS OWN.



THE BLACK BUTTON IS PRESSED--AND BOTH QUIR-UL AND THE DREAMER FACE FROM THIS WORLD...



...into the PHANTOM ZONE!

IT IS A WORLD OF SOUNDLESS TWILIGHT, A STOPPING PLACE BETWEEN BEING AND NOTHINGNESS...A DIMENSION WITHOUT DIMENSIONS, WITHOUT HORIZONS, WITHOUT SENSATIONS, WITHOUT HOPE.

ITS DENIZENS ARE MERE IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR FORMER SELVES, ASTRAL BODIES HOVERING IN AUST, CONVERSING BY THOUGHT.

...FOR THOUGHT IS NOT ONLY COMMUNICATION, BUT THE SUN OF EXISTENCE IN THIS ENDLESS NOWHERE.

JOR--FACES--
YOU OTHERS--
BEHOLD! OUR
FREEDOM IS
AT HAND!

JOR-EL LIES ILL--STRICKEN WITH FEVER!
CONCENTRATE! PENETRATE HIS MIND WITH
A SINGLE THOUGHT! COMPEL HIM TO
RELEASE US FROM THE ZONE--!



RELEASE... RELEASE... RELEASE...
RELEASE!

JOR-EL...NO!!

LARA'S CRY BREAKS THE SPELL. THE ESCAPE ATTEMPT IS THWARTED. AND JOR-EL, WHEN HE RECOVERS, REPORTS THE INCIDENT TO THE SCIENCE COUNCIL.

THREE DAYS LATER-- KRYPTON DIES! AN ATOMIC CORE REACTION AT THE PLANET'S CORE BLASTS THE GIANT WORLD ASUNDER...AS JOR-EL KNEW IT WOULD. OF THE MANY BILLIONS WHO DWELLED THERE, ONLY A COMPARATIVE HANDFUL REMAIN ALIVE...

THE COUNCIL'S DECISION ALONG WITH KNU-EL'S FORTHRIGHT WARNING: THE PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR IS LAUNCHED INTO DEEP SPACE.

THE PRISONERS' TELEPATHIC ABILITIES WILL BE USELESS NOW. NO ONE CAN FREE THEM FROM THE ZONE. AND YET...MAYBE THEY SHOULD BE FREED...TO SURVIVE THE FATE THAT AWAITS US ALL.



...AMONG THEM, PHYSICALLY, THE MOST SPECIMENS OF HUMANITY EVER TO TREAD KRYPTONIAN SOIL.

THEY HAVE SURVIVED THEIR EXECUTIONERS... AND THEY FEEL FREE.

THERE, AS ALWAYS, IS BARRING THE DOORWAY--LEAVING CHARLES SWEDGILL TO FACE HIS FEAR AND HIS BATTLE--ALONE. BUT THIS TIME SOMETHING ELSE HAS HAPPENED. SOMETHING NEW.



CHARLIE WAS AWAKENED SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN AHEAD--IN A PLACE AS ALIEN TO HIM AS KRYPTON--WITH NO IDEA HOW HE GOT HERE AND, WORSE, NO NOTION HOW TO GET OUT.



HAS HE AWAKENED FROM ONE DREAM INTO ANOTHER? HE FIGURES HIMSELF.

GWITCH?? ONLY, I'M NOT ASLEEP--OR INVULNERABLE, EITHER.

SO I GUESS I'M NOT FROM KRYPTON.



"BUT IF THAT'S TRUE-- WHAT'N I DOING HERE-- .. DECIDED STEALING STUFF?"



AND WHAT ARE THOSE FLAKY DECADES TRYING TO TELL ME...?!



INSTINCTIVELY-- WITH- OUT THINKING--CHARLIE SLIPS THE ELECTRONIC DEVICE INTO HIS POCKET AND STARTS FOR THE DOOR.

THIS IS ALL VERY CRAZY...! HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWNED HALF-A-DOZEN ABENT-A-COPS...



...AND SLIPPED PAST THE WORLD'S MOST SOPHISTICATED ALARM SYSTEM... INTO B.T.A.F. LABORATORIES...?

WHY WOULD I EVEN WANT TO?!



THE ANSWERS ARE GLOBALLY SIMPLE-- BOTH THE MOTIVATION AND THE ABILITY CAME FROM OUTSIDE CHARLIE KNESSL...

...FROM THE TELEPATHIC MINDS WHO SWART THE PHANTOM JEMS!



THE DREAM-INDUCTION ENDED TOO SOON. WE VERY HEAVILY LOST OURSELVES. WE CANNOT AFFORD SUCH A LOSS-- IS THAT CLEAR? QUEX-UL IS THE ONLY ONE OF HIS KIND ON EARTH!

THE YEARS HE SPENT IN THE ZONE HAVE LEFT HIS MIND UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO TELEPATHIC INTRUSION.

THE GOLD KRYPTONITE THAT BRADICATED HIS SUPER-POWERS-- AND HIS MEMORY-- ALSO CRIPPLED HIS PSYCHIC DEFENSES.

THE "DREAMS" WE'VE INDUCED IN HIS SLEEP HAVE BROUGHT HIM NOW TO THE BRINK OF MADNESS!



HE IS A NIGHTWALKER-- SABOTAGING ALARM SYSTEMS-- DISORIENTING GUARDS-- STEALING-- AT OUR DISCRETION, IN HIS SLEEP!

HE IS OUR PUPPET-- AND OUR MEANS TO ESCAPE!

I COMMAND THIS OPERATION-- AND WILL TOLERATE NOTHING THAT HINDERS ITS OBJECTIVE!

NOW BRILL-- I LONG TO ELABORATE ZOD'S ARROGANCE. I AM NOT HIS DROPE.

GUARD YOUR THOUGHTS FROM THE GENERAL HEARD ALL.

AD-REL NADIRA!

GO AWAY, MOTHER. WE DO NOT LOSE YOU.

HE WANTS TO LEARN WHAT ZOD IS UP TO. NADIRA, THE OTHERS ARE SHIELDING THEIR THOUGHTS.



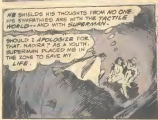
HE SHIELDS HIS THOUGHTS FROM NO ONE. HIS SENSES ARE WITH THE TACTILE WORLD-- AND WITH SUPERMAN.

SHOULD I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT, NADIRA? AS A YOUTH, SUPERMAN PLACED ME IN THE ZONE TO SAVE MY LIFE.

I'M AFFECTED BY LEAD. THE ONLY APPROPRIATE WOULD AFFECT YOU. I CAN NEVER LEAVE THE ZONE-- UNTIL A CURE IS FOUND!

LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR MY NON-EL.

.. AND FOR INFORMATION, YOU OUGHT US.



BRUNSWICK MON-EL DRIFTS TOWARD ANOTHER
SECTOR OF THE ZONE, TOWARD JER-EM, THE
"MAD PROPHET"... WHOSE FANTASTIC MACHIN-
TERY DESTROYED ARGO CITY, THE ONLY
COMMUNITY TO SURVIVE THE EXPLOSION OF
KRYPTON.

FIRE WILL FALL FROM THE
HEAVENS ONTO THE EARTH
AND KRYPTON'S NAME SHALL
BE BLACKENED!!

NO HELP
COMING
FROM THIS
QUARTER.
BUTTER,
JER-EM WON'T
INTERFERE
WITH WHAT'S
"MEANT TO BE".

NAUGHT CAN BE DONE
TO AVERT THE TRAGEDY.
YOUR ONE? IT IS WRITTEN
IT SHALL COME TO PASS.
PREPARE THY SOUL...!

EVEN IF I KNEW
WHAT WAS COMING,
I COULDN'T COMMUNICATE
IT TO SUPERMAN.
IT TAKES THAT WHOLE
MUCH TO REACH QUEST-ALL
MY THOUGHTS
WOULD NEVER
REACH THE ZONE...

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, THE CHAOS
COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING AGAIN
REORGANIZED WITH THE ARCHIMON
KNOWN AS "WHITE THUNDER".

WELL, FIND OUT
WHO'S COMMITTING
THESE THEFTS? THAT'S
YOUR JOB. I LEFT IT TO YOU

AND
DON'T
CALL ME
"CHIEF"...!

THE CHIEF
GAVE YOU
A ROUGH
GO, JIMMY?

THE USUAL... HE
EXPECTS ME TO BE
WOLFGANG, BERNSTEIN
AND THE BUTMAN
ROLLED INTO ONE.

IT'S THAT SERIES
OF ELECTRONIC
BURGLARIES.

THE THIEF'S GOTTEN
BETTER SECURITY SYSTEMS
THAT COULD DETECT A
BREAK-AND-ENTRY BY
A COCKROACH! THE
COPS ARE BIFFED...
THE VICTIMS ARE
BIFFED... BUT DESPITE
SUFFERED TO HAVE
ALL THE ANSWERS.

EXCEPT... I DON'T!



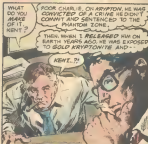
OLDEN'S STORY HAS HIM STUMPED...LOYS WILL BE LATE WITH HER COPY...I'M SHORT A MAN IN JEWELRY-DEPT...I SWIM! WHAT NEW ASSASSINATION HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME, KENT?

ACTUALLY, PERRY... I JUST STOPPED TO CHAT.

SO FLAP YOUR LIPS! TE... ME HOW A STRAIGHT-SHOOTER LIKE CHARLIE KNEESKILL CAN SUDDENLY GO DOTTY!



ONE MINUTE HE'S SLAPPING RUBBER CEMENT WITH THE BEST OF 'EM... THEN HE FALLS OUT OF HIS CHAIR, SAYS HE CAN'T SLEEP... SO I SEND HIM HOME... AND HE NEVER COMES BACK!



WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, KENT?

POOR CHARLIE, ON KRYPTON, HE WAS CONVICTED OF A CRIME RECENTLY COMMIT AND SENTENCED TO THE PHANTOM ZONE.

THEN, WHEN I RELEASED HIM ON EARTH YEARS AGO, HE WAS EXPOSED TO GOLD KRYPTONYTE AND--

KENT...?



KENT... COME BACK HERE!!

I HOPE CHARLIE'S DISAPPEARANCE ISN'T CONNECTED WITH HIS PAST... BUT IT CAN'T DO ANY HARM TO CHECK.

I'VE GOT A FEW MINUTES, ANYWAY, BEFORE I HAVE TO BE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS.



...FOR THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK NEWSCAST.



TIME ENOUGH FOR A ROUND-TRIP...



...TO KNEESKILL'S AND BACK... AS THE CROW FLIES!

A HEARTBEAT LATER, ALL HEADS TURN--UPWARD--AS THE MIGHTY MAN OF TOMORROW
HURTLIES OVER THE STREETS OF METROPOLIS.

SUPERMAN--!!

ONE SIDE
CHICKEE! I WANT A
LOOK BEFORE MY
PEEPERS
GO DIM!



FORTUNATELY, I DIDN'T HAVE TO STOP
TO LOOK UP CHARLIE'S ADDRESS. AS
CLARK, I HELPED HIM LOCATE THIS
APARTMENT

TOP FLOOR, CORNER
EFFICIENCY, IF MEMORY
SERVES ...







THERE'S NOT A LOT OF JOB SECURITY IN THIS FIELD, LUK. IF YOU DON'T **SHORE UP**--

OBVIOUSLY, YOU WEREN'T LISTENING THEN, EITHER.

I KNOW, I KNOW... I'LL BE RELEGATED BACK TO PRINT JOURNALISM. WE'VE HAD THIS DISCUSSION BEFORE.



MEANWHILE

GENTLY NOW, QUINCY--THE TECHNOLOGY WE ARE EMPLOYING IS **CRUDE** AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, UNLESS YOU FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS **PRECISELY**. YOU MAY FIND YOUR LIFE-SPAN **SHORTENED** CONSIDERABLY!



NO NEED TO FEAR, MR. GAN--THE PROJECT IS ALMOST COMPLETED. IN A MOMENT, HIS HANDS AND YOUR GENIUS WILL HAVE CREATED A PHANTOM--TOME PROJECTOR FROM TERRAN JUNK!



AND, HIGH ABOVE ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY

NOT MUCH ACTIVITY TONIGHT--CRIMINAL OR OTHERWISE

I'LL CHECK IN ON CHARLIE ONE MORE TIME AND CALL IT A NIGHT



BUT THIS IS A NIGHT UNLIKE ANY OTHER--A NIGHT THE RAIN OF STEEL WILL RECALL WITH HORROR... IF HE LIVES TO RECALL IT AT ALL.

THE MISSING ELECTRONICS COMPONENTS--

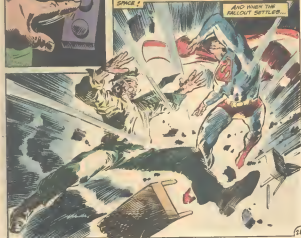


--HE'S ASSEMBLED THEM INTO A--
GREAT KRYPTON--!



AND JARVIS'S APPREHENSIONS PROVE JUSTIFIED: THE TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT WITHSTAND THE TRENDEOUS ENERGIES CHANNELLED THROUGH IT. IT EXPLODES INTO ATOMS, LITERALLY RIPPING OPEN THE FABRIC OF INTERDIMENSIONAL SPACE!

AND WHEN THE RALLOUT SETTLER...



... A DARK SHADOW FROM KRYPTON'S PAST HAS FALLEN OVER THE EARTH: THE FIENDS FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO CORPOREAL FORM... WHILE SUPERMAN AND AN INCREDULOUS CHARLIE KESKILL ARE CAST INTO THE ETERNAL TWILIGHT!

FREE!

THE EARTH
THE VERY
UNIVERSE
ITSELF--IS
OURS FOR THE
TAKING!



NEXT:

SUPERSGIRL, GREEN LANTERN, HAWKMAN and WONDER WOMAN BATTLE TO SAVE THE EARTH--WHILE SUPERMAN and CHARLIE EXPERIENCE--
THE TERRORS of the TWILIGHT DIMENSION

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE NOVEMBER 19

THE EDITORIAL ZONE

Turn back a page and gaze again upon the confusion of this issue's story. Now THAT'S a first in comics!

While you're waiting impatiently for act two we thought you might be interested in learning a bit about the history of the editorial dilemmas that focused the greatest criminals in Kryptonian history. While WE need the food of words and letters that we just know you are going to stand out as with.

To sum things up and clarify what you have just read you must know that the judicial system of the planet Krypton established capital punishment years and years ago. Since unguilty individuals desired a more intimate form of punishment placing convicted felons in a state of suspended animation inside a capsule and releasing him into outer space for a specific period of time commensurate with his offense. While a special sleep gel kept the criminal unconscious his brain was cleansed of all criminal tendencies by natural means—a glowing crystalline mineral—so that at the expiration of his sentence he might return to society as a law-abiding individual.

This practice, well, it was abolished when Jor-El discovered the shadow realm of the Phantom Zone and proposed to the judicial council that criminals be isolated therein so that they may have time to consider and repent their behavior.

Those so called were forced to exist as wraiths, able to communicate amongst themselves, and because the boundaries of the Phantom Zone are apparently invisible, they are also able to observe events transpiring in the rest of the universe but unable to control them.

Though free of all the rules are occasionally able to telepathically communicate with those outside the Zone.

When Krypton was destroyed, these wraiths seemed to be trapped by error. Fortunately, or unfortunately depending on your viewpoint, Superman discovered the plight of these criminals and when he also discovered that an alien ally, Kandar, had escaped the destruction of Krypton he arranged with that city's judicial council to monitor the sentences of the criminals banished to the Phantom Zone.

Utilizing a series of devices of his own invention Superman is able to communicate with, and monitor, the denizens of the Zone. His Zone-sphere allows him to observe the criminals and speak directly to them. With the voice filter he is able to ignore any and all of the wraiths.

Years, the Phantom Zone Parole Board convenes in the majestic Hall of Justice to consider the appeals of the Phantom Zone criminals. At the end of a protracted sentence he is pulled from exile by means of the Phantom Zone Ray, Gun, and released into the embrace of the bottled F.R. Kandar, thereby being given a new lease on life.

Because they are also natives of Superman's home world they too acquire super powers when they enter the normal environment of Earth. Over the years a number of criminals have broken free from the Phantom Zone to visit the Earth. These men have developed a hatred toward the Man of Steel, perhaps because he represents the survival of the fittest which frightened them. Ever vigilant Superman—always been up to the task of capturing and imprisoning these outlaws.

Two prisoners of special note are Mon-El and Quesada. The latter was wrongly convicted and served a full 25 year sentence before being released by Superman. You'll be seeing much more of this character before our word is told.

Mon-El, a native of Quesar, came to Earth nearly years ago and became a friend of the young Superman in Smallville. Unbeknownst to Mon-El, Earth's environment was deadly to him and he contracted an incurable form of lead poisoning. Unable to find a cure for his friend Superman proposed him into the Phantom Zone where the speed of the disease was halted. And there he will remain for 50 long centuries until Brainiac 5 develops the serum that will cure him and allow him out from the twilight darkness. Again his release Mon-El will be made a full-fledged member of the Legion of Super Heroes.

Imagine being in a place without clocks. Where time appears to stand still. A realm in which you are trapped. Where you will continue to exist and think. In this phantom-like state you will be without food or water or air because they are unnecessary to your spiritual existence. You will be without entertainment, reading materials or any other store whatsoever. You will cease to age. You escape a state of suspended animation but you can't think. You are a wraith but your emotions still function. Think, imagine. And understand what it must be like for the denizens of the Phantom Zone. The fantasies you have just been introduced to.

AUTHOR'S AUTHOR: We've mentioned your next publisher. From whose fertile imagination did such a concept as the Phantom Zone spring forth? Where did that first story appear? Look to ADVENTURE COMICS #63 (April 1961) for the beginning in the tale. The Phantom Superboos. Under the editorial guidance of Mort Weisinger, Jerry Siegel created the first story of the Phantom Zone.

And that brings us to today. THE PHANTOM ZONE. By Steve Gerber, Gene Colan and Toriy Balunga. You are probably already familiar with their numerous contributions to the comic book world in following issues we will take you behind the scenes for informal introductions to them.

WHAT TO DO WHILE WAITING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE PHANTOM ZONE: May we recommend two items from this effort? The January issue of SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE sports a special novel by Boris Veshkova that gives an atmosphere of what to expect in the lead story, "The Halloween God," by Michael A. Cune and drawn by Gonzalez. This month THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD features an equally unusual and exciting interlude on Earth Two, by Bannister and Asaro. It will be fun to stir your appetite perhaps you would care to comment upon THIS book. You know the address, right? THE EDITORIAL ZONE c/o Dick Giordano, DC Comics, P.O. Box 77, Glen Elder, Mo. 64439.